

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2002

Dear Colleague:

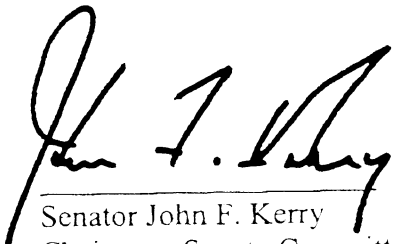
In late 2000, the New Markets Venture Capital Program Act was enacted into law. The Act recognizes community development venture capital as an important source of financial support for entrepreneurs and small businesses doing business and creating jobs in low-income communities. Just last year, the Small Business Administration (SBA) promulgated regulations that implement the legislation, launching what is known as the New Markets Venture Capital Program. This program is modeled on the SBA's highly successful Small Business Investment Company program that makes investments in companies throughout the United States. The New Markets Venture Capital program is public-private partnership designed to inject more than \$300 million in venture capital financing into small businesses located in low-income areas in both rural and urban communities across the country in areas where traditional venture capitalists rarely invest. The SBA has identified seven new community development venture capital funds committed to investing in areas in need of this type of financing contemplated by the Community Development Venture Capital Act, and the SBA is expected to identify seven additional funds by the end of the year.

On Wednesday, May 15, 2002 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., in room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, the Community Development Venture Capital Alliance (CDVCA), the trade association of community development venture organizations, will provide a workshop and briefing to Members of the Senate and House of Representatives and their staffs. The briefing will cover a range of topics relating to community development venture capital, including how the New Markets Venture Capital Program works, and the opportunities the program provides for your constituents. A reception will follow this briefing. You and your staff are welcomed.

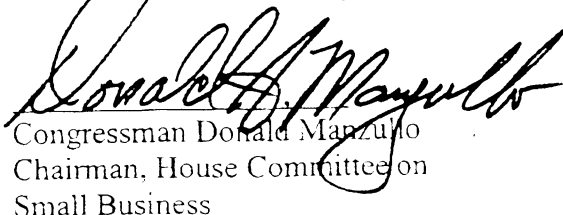
We hope you and your staff can join us for this important discussion. If you would like additional information regarding this event, please contact Rebecca Shore-Suslowitz of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship at 224- , or Christy Markva of the House Committee on Small Business at 225- .

We look forward to seeing you on May 15th.

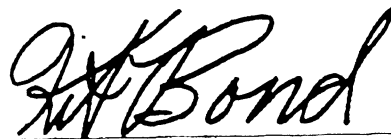
Sincerely,



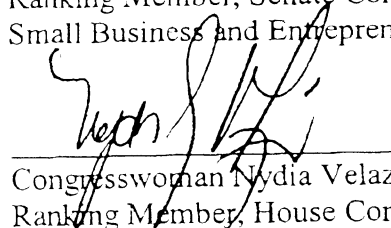
Senator John F. Kerry
Chairman, Senate Committee on
Small Business and Entrepreneurship



Congressman Donald Manzullo
Chairman, House Committee on
Small Business



Senator Christopher S. Bond
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Small Business and Entrepreneurship



Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez
Ranking Member, House Committee on
Small Business